

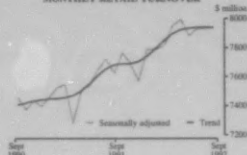
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 12 November 1992

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MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Retail trade flat in September

The monthly increase in trend estimates of Australian retail turnover showed on average zero growth during September quarter 1992. Average monthly growth over the twelve months to September was a weak 0.3 per cent at current prices.

The trend estimates (at current prices) show that three of the five major industries covered by the survey — other food stores, department and general stores and clothing and fabric stores — are in decline, while hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs have shown no growth during either the three months or the year ended September 1992. For the remaining major industry, grocers, trend growth weakened during September quarter.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in September 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended September 1992	12 months ended September 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,298	0.3	0.5
Butchers	193	0.5	0.6
Other food stores	549	-0.5	0.3
Total food group	3,040	0.2	0.4
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	919	0.0	0.0
Department and general stores	811	-0.3	0.1
Clothing and fabrics stores	516	-1.5	-0.1
Electrical stores	426	0.5	0.2
Pharmacies	351	0.9	0.4
Newsagents	268	-0.1	0.2
Other industries	1,415	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	7,748	0.0	0.3

In constant price (i.e. allowing for price changes) seasonally adjusted terms, the total Australian estimate for the September 1992 quarter fell by 0.3 per cent over the June 1992 quarter but rose by 1.7 per cent over the September 1991 quarter.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER At average 1984-85 prices, seasonally adjusted

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From preceding quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
1991			
September	15,404	2.5	-0.2
December	15,326	-0.5	0.7
1992			
March	15,476	1.0	1.9
June	15,719	1.6	4.6
September	15,673	-0.3	1.7

During the September 1992 quarter grocers, confectioners and tobacconists rose by 1.1 per cent in real terms over the June 1992 quarter while the remainder of the major industries fell — other food stores (0.9%), hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs (0.6%), department and general stores (4.7%) and clothing and fabric stores (6.1%).

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0), or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.

Jump in commercial loans reversed

Commercial finance commitments fell by \$1,659.1 million (19.4%) in August 1992 compared with July 1992 but were still up \$353.4 million (5.4%) over August 1991.

The large decrease, which followed two months of increases in commitments, was partly attributable to August being a four week reporting period for some banks whereas July was a five week reporting period.

A large increase in borrowings under fixed loan facilities by the construction industry, up \$624.8 million, was more than offset by decreases in fixed loan borrowings by other industry sectors.

However, it was reduced borrowings under revolving credit facilities that contributed most to the overall decline in August of commercial finance commitments.

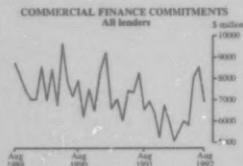
The finance, investment and insurance sector was down \$600.5 million, the transport and storage sector was down \$403.2 million and the property and business services sector was down \$300.9 million.

Overall, commitments under revolving credit facilities fell by 29.5 per cent in August, while fixed loan commitments were down by 3.9 per cent.

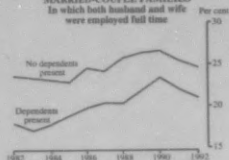
COMMERCIAL FINANCE
COMMITMENTS, AUGUST 1992
\$ million

	Banks	Finance companies	Money market corporations	Other lenders	All lenders
Fixed loan	2,611.2	375.4	58.9	179.6	3,225.1
Revolving credit	3,089.4	85.8	446.1	35.0	3,656.3
Total commitments	5,700.6	461.2	505.0	214.6	6,881.4

For further information, order the publication *Commercial Finance, Australia* (5643.0), or contact John Carson on (06) 252 7110.



MARRIED-CUPLE FAMILIES
In which both husband and wife
were employed full time



Unemployment and families

In June this year there were 324,700 married-couple families in Australia in which one or both spouses were unemployed, an increase of 53,600 or 20 per cent on June 1991. About 60 per cent of these families had dependents present. These estimates were compiled from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' June *Labour Force Survey*.

Some 46 per cent of married-couple families had both partners employed. The proportion was highest in the Northern Territory (64%) and the Australian Capital Territory (62%). In the States the proportions ranged from 42 per cent in Tasmania to 47 per cent in Western Australia.

Of the 228,900 married-couple families in which the husband was unemployed, 147,000 (64%) had dependents present. In 78 per cent of these families, the wife was either also unemployed or not in the labour force.

In June 1992, nine per cent of all families were one-parent families with the great majority (88%) of those having a female parent. Some 43 per cent of females who headed a one-parent family were employed, with more than half of those (54%) in full-time employment. Male parents were employed in 68 per cent of instances, with 88 per cent of those being in full-time employment.

ONE-PARENT FAMILIES AND THE LABOUR FORCE
'000 families

One-parent families	Parent					Total
	Employed			Unem- ployed	Not in the labour force	
	F/time	P/time	Total			
With a male parent						
1988	28.0	2.0	30.0	2.0	5.5	37.4
1990	32.2	2.4	34.6	1.6	10.2	46.4
1991	31.9	1.8	33.8	4.8	9.8	48.3
1992	29.0	3.8	32.8	3.8	12.0	48.5
With a female parent						
1989	74.4	61.5	135.9	16.2	140.7	292.9
1990	82.0	60.3	142.3	22.2	150.2	314.7
1991	82.2	64.3	146.5	23.8	164.9	335.2
1992	83.9	71.7	155.6	33.7	174.4	363.6

For one-parent families in which the parent was unemployed, 24 per cent of the parents had been unemployed for one year or longer.

Just over two million persons were either living alone or in households where they were not members of a family. Of these persons 61 per cent lived alone. An estimated 40 per cent of persons who were not members of a family and were living alone were employed. For persons who were not members of a family and were not living alone, 70 per cent were employed.

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia* (6224.0), or contact Ian Clout on (06) 252 6018.



Low level of industrial disputation

The number of industrial disputes in the year to July was the lowest recorded since the statistical series on the issue commenced in 1981.

There were 832 separate disputes reported, involving 856,500 employees and the loss of 1,011,800 working days. More than half of the days lost occurred in October 1991, when a general strike in New South Wales had a large impact on the figures.

In the month of July 1992 there were 65 disputes reported in progress. They involved 21,000 employees and resulted in 16,700 working days lost (down 53,000 on June).

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS
WORKING DAYS LOST**
'000

	July 1991	June 1992	July 1992	Twelve months ended July	
				1991	1992
Mining	11.3	16.8	4.7	197.8	170.9
Manufacturing	108.4	15.6	3.6	1,183.9	302.2
Construction	32.5	0.0	0.2	99.5	50.0
Transport and storage; communication	3.3	3.4	6.7	35.6	98.7
Community services	5.6	31.0	0.2	107.2	220.0
Other industries	13.7	0.9	1.3	86.2	170.2
<i>All industries</i>	<i>174.7</i>	<i>69.7</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>1,710.2</i>	<i>1,011.8</i>

New South Wales and Western Australia reported the biggest reductions in working days lost in the month.

Among industries, mining (other than coal) lost just 100 working days through disputes — the lowest figure in that industry since February 1970.

For further information, order the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6321.0), or contact Laura Smith on (06) 252 6561.

Earnings in brief ...

□ Distribution

The median weekly total earnings for all male employees in May 1992 was estimated as \$545.90, while the median total earnings for females was \$398.30. Between May 1991 and May 1992 the estimated median weekly total earnings increased at a faster rate for females (5.0%) than for males (2.0%).

□ Composition

Between May 1991 and May 1992, the percentage of total earnings contributed by award or agreed base rate of pay for full-time adult non-managerial employees increased 0.5 percentage points for males (to 88.1%) and 0.1 percentage points for females (to 96.1%).

Source: Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (6305.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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All the week's releases: 4 to 10 November

General

- Publications Advice, 6 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Publications Advice, 10 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Statistics Weekly, 5 November 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
- Economic Indicators, NSW, October 1992 (1307.1; \$5.50)
- Economic Indicators, Vic., October 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)
- Western Australian Year Book, 1992 (1300.5; \$25.00)

Demography

- 1991 Census — Final Counts for Selected Areas, Northern Territory (2801.7; \$12.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Commercial Finance, Australia, August 1992 (5643.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, June 1992 (6224.0; \$12.50)
- Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (6305.0; \$11.00)
- Industrial Disputes, Australia, July 1992 (6321.0; \$10.00)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Australia, October 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Australia, September 1992 (6415.0; \$10.50)

Agriculture

- Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, New South Wales, 1990-91 (7120.1; \$16.00)
- Livestock Products — Meat, Queensland, September 1992 (7204.3; \$5.00)
- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, September 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Retail Trade, Australia, September 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- Building Approvals, New South Wales, September 1992 (8731.1; \$10.50)
- Building Approvals, Tasmania, September 1992 (8731.6; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tasmania, August 1992 (8741.6; \$5.00)

Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, September 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Western Australia, September 1992 (9303.5; \$7.50)

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To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Calendar of key releases

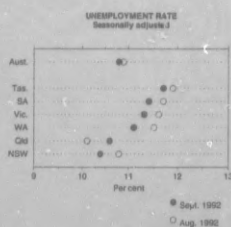
Expected releases over the fortnight to 24 November 1992

November

- 12** The Labour Force, Australia, October 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1992, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.50)
- 16** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- 17** Export Price Index, Australia, September 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 18** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, September 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure, September Quarter 1992, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.50)
- 20** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, September 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 24** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, September 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Australia, September 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
10 November 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Sept. 92) (trend estimate)	2.5	2.0	6.1	-2.9	6.8	5.4	n.a.	4.6	3.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 92)†	2.6	7.7	22.6	8.4	26.4	12.9	42.3	-14.9	9.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 92)*	6.4	11.9	10.6	9.8	19.9	12.3	-20.1	121.5	9.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Sept. 92)*	-0.3	-1.8	2.7	0.5	0.9	-2.9	-2.1	1.3	-0.1
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ord. pay time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 10 November 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984–85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6	
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4	
— 1984–85 prices			4,604	4,407	2.6	-12.0	
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Sept. 92	7,748	7,937	0.0	4.1	
— 1984–85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7	
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Sept. 92	47,643	43,648	-3.8	9.7	
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Sept. 92	14,249	13,220	-1.2	9.5	
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,910	1,835	3.0	7.3	
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8	
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	3,754.4	3,765.4	-0.3	-6.8	
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8	
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1	
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3	
Labour							
Employed persons (e)	'000	Sept. 92	7,759.9	7,687.7	-0.6	-0.1	
Unemployment rate † (e)	%	"	10.7	10.8	-0.1	-0.6	
Participation rate † (e)	%	"	63.2	62.7	-0.5	-0.6	
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6	
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0	
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index 1989–90 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984–85 = 100.0		Aug. 92	127.1	n.a.	0.7	6.0	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988–89 = 100.0		Aug. 92	113.6	n.a.	0.4	2.2	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (e)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Sept. 92	5.95	n.a.	0.05	0.4	
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.95	n.a.	0.0	-1.35	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Sept. 92	5,170	5,222	11.2	15.8	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,231	-5,249	20.2	22.4	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-111	-27	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-548	-316	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,718	-1,512	61.5	15.5	
Terms of trade (d)	1984–85 = 100.0	June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6	
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A	Sept. 92	0.7225	n.a.	-0.5	-8.9	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	52.7	n.a.	0.8	-14.8	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Aug. 92	199	212	-5.0	2.0	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figure where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 12 November 1992.

NOTES: 1 = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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